



WICOMICO COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Located on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico County has a population of 74,000 residents with approximately 21,000 living in the city of Salisbury. The county is bordered on the west by the Nanticoke River and the Pocomoke River on the east. The Wicomico River leading to Salisbury is a main transportation route for goods distributed throughout the county. These three rivers attract many tourists for fishing, boating, etc.

Wicomico County is the number one agricultural producing county in the State with \$186.3 million coming from agricultural production in 1997. Over 76 million broilers were sold in 1997, making the county number one in the state and tenth in the United States.

Total land area in the county is 241,415 acres. The county has 70,960 acres in crop production. The bulk of this cropland is used for corn and soybean production, much of which goes toward sustaining the broiler industry. Over 2,500 acres of mostly well-drained sandy soil are used for vegetable production, both fresh market and processing.

WICOMICO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	22,400	121.1	2,712,000
	1998		23,200	77.1	1,789,100
	1999		20,000	84.0	1,680,000
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	35,000	26.8	938,500
	1998		26,100	26.2	420,700
	1999		25,000	28.1	703,400
Wheat	1997	Bu.	11,800	67.0	791,000
	1998		9,300	37.6	350,000
	1999		7,200	58.4	420,700
Hay	1997	Tons.	2,300	3.3	7,600
	1998		2,600	2.0	5,200
	1999		2,500	2.60	6,500
Barley	1997	Bu.	900	71.1	64,000
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*

Crop Production  
Rank among MD. Counties, 1999

Corn	8	Oats	3
Wheat	10	Barley	3
Hay	16	Soybeans	8

Livestock Inventories  
Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 <sup>1</sup>

Cattle	18
Hogs	8
Sheep	16
Milk Production	3

# WICOMICO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size <sup>1</sup>		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		774	684	580
Average Size (acres)		123	133	156
Land in Farms (acres)		95,542	91,254	90,656

Livestock (Number on Farms) <sup>1</sup>		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	1,694	1,526	2,211
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	15,144	12,208	3,526
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	<sup>2</sup>	225	310

Value of Sales <sup>1</sup>		1987	1992	1997
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----- Thousand Dollars -----

All Products	134061	164,682	186,294
Crops	14,520	20,654	29,892
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products	119,541	144,028	156,402

<sup>1</sup> Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

<sup>2</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Unranked - Data not published.

<sup>4</sup> Revised.

\* Acreage too small to publish.

## MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	42.2	35.9	5.36	3.76
February	41.6	38.1	3.11	3.47
March	44.8	46.7	5.59	4.24
April	57.4	55.1	3.62	3.30
May	65.8	64.7	1.23	3.50
June	73.8	72.8	2.15	3.65
July	81.4	76.9	4.62	4.02
August	78.1	75.9	5.42	4.99
September	70.8	69.7	9.55	3.55
October	58.5	59.1	3.97	3.23
November	54.6	50.1	2.26	3.07
December	43.4	40.4	2.92	3.53
Annual	59.4	57.1	49.80	44.31

Number frost free days for 1999 236

Normal frost free days 1951-1980 172 *(1961-1990 Not available)*

Highest temperature 07-06-99 99

Lowest temperature 01-06-99 12

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Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service  
and the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service.